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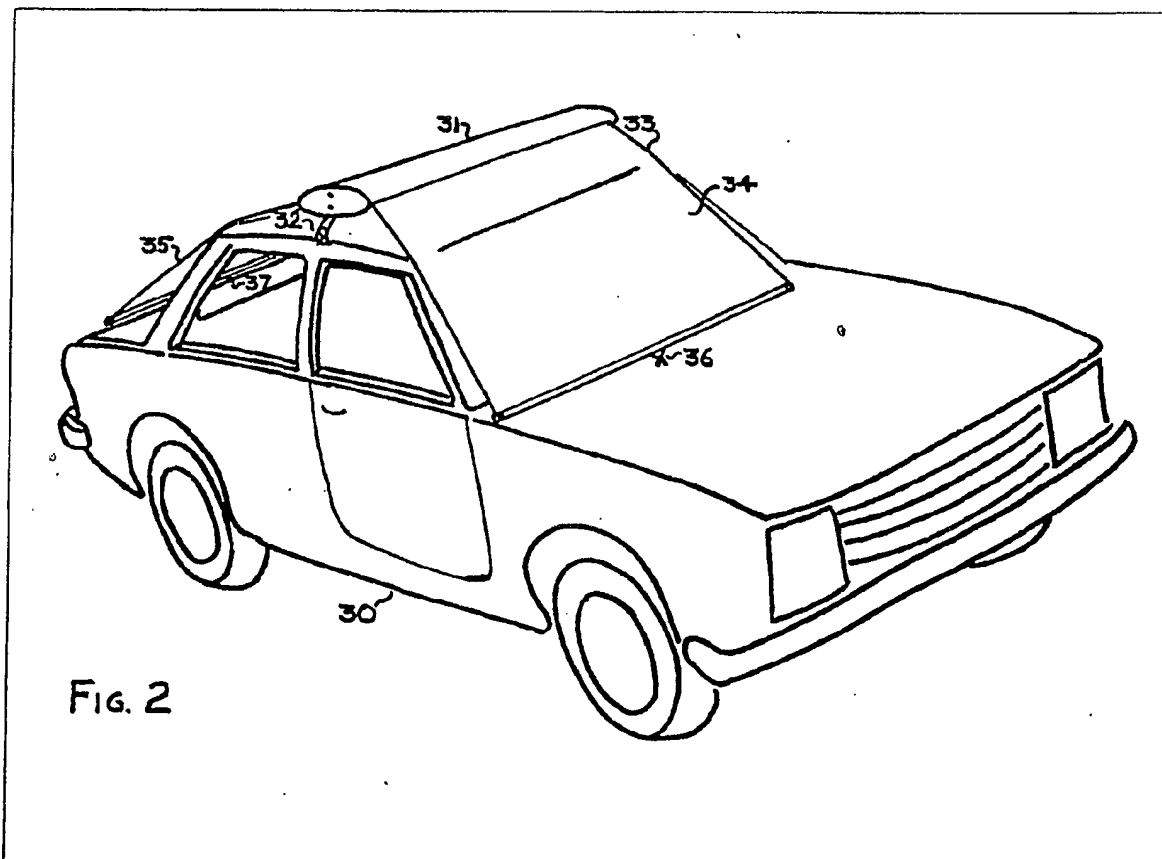
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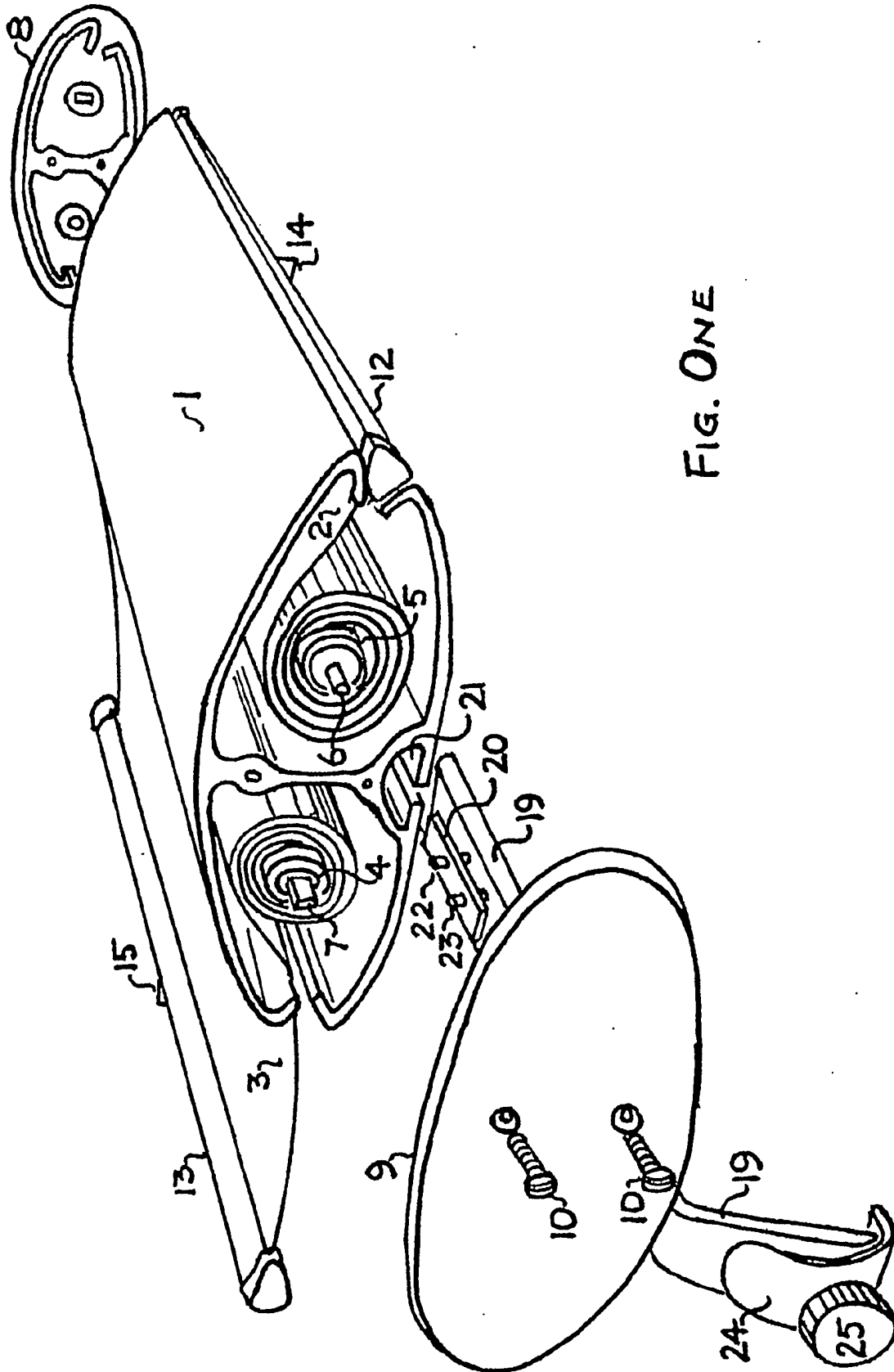
part of a roof rack installation, or alternatively be built into the bodywork of the vehicle.

(54) Vehicle awning

(57) A vehicle blind installation having one or more blinds, which may be fitted to a vehicle so as to shade the outside of the vehicle and maintain the interior at a temperature approaching the local ambient shade temperature. Preferably the blinds are retractable into one or more containers which are fitted to the roof or rear of the vehicle. Some blind installations may be



GB 2 068 863 A



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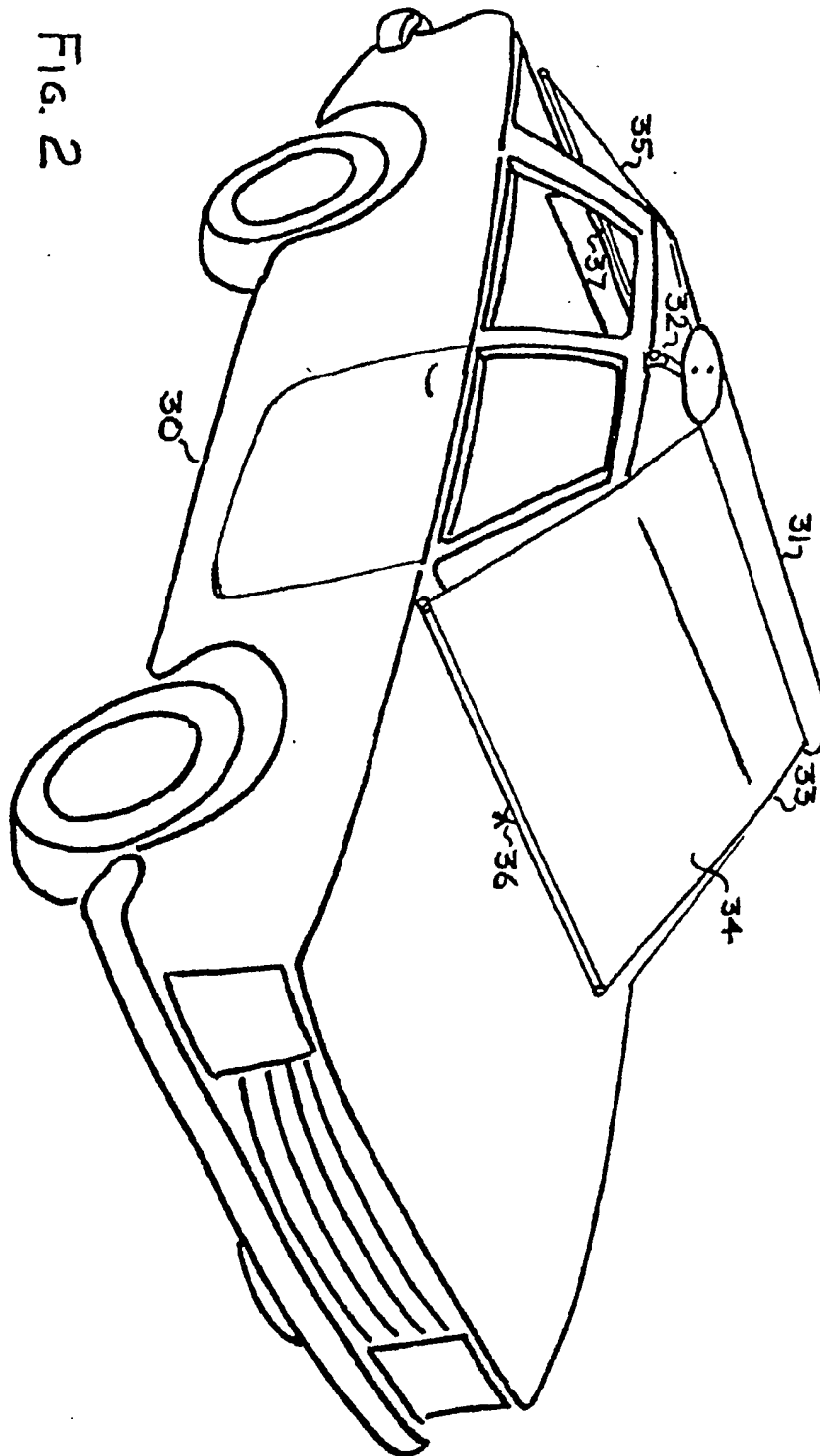


Fig. 2

SPECIFICATION

A blind installation

- 5 The invention relates to a blind installation, in particular, it relates to a roller blind installation for use on vehicles.

After a vehicle has been parked in the sun, especially in a hot climate, the interior quickly becomes uncomfortably hot. Although blinds fitted inside the windows of a vehicle can marginally reduce the temperature of the interior, this is inadequate.

It is the object of this invention to keep a vehicle at shade temperatures approaching the local ambient by means of external shading. A blind installation may also be used in winter to protect one or more windows of a vehicle from icing, dirt or wet.

According to this invention a blind installation comprises one or more blinds fitted to a vehicle in such a manner as to shade the outside of the vehicle.

Preferably the blinds (or blind) are enclosed on one or more containers to facilitate their stowage when the vehicle is moving and to protect them from the weather when not in use.

In one embodiment of the invention one or more of the containers may be part of the car's bodywork.

In another embodiment one or more containers may be constructed to be of suitable shape to also act as spoilers or air deflectors, to aid in keeping the rear wheels of the vehicle on the road when the vehicle is moving at speed.

In a further embodiment the blind installation may be part of a roof rack.

In yet another embodiment of the invention, the blind installation may be constructed so as to attach to a roof rack.

The invention will now be described by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings of which:—

Figure 1 shows one embodiment of the invention in which an exploded view of a blind installation is drawn.

Figure 2 shows a blind installation fitted to a car.

In *Fig. 1* there is shown a blind installation having a container 1 constructed from an aluminium extrusion and of length equal to the width of the vehicle. Within the container are two blinds 2, 3 wound round rollers 4, 5. Each roller is fitted with a fixed round pin 6 at one end to enable the roller to rotate and a rectangular pin 7 at the other end which is connected to a spring within the roller so that the blind may be reeled in.

Covering the ends of the container 1 are fitted end-pieces 8, 9 shaped so as to support the rollers, and to enable the aluminium extrusion to slot into them. These end-pieces are attached by means of screws 10 passed

through the end-pieces and screwed into the ends of the extrusion 1.

Each blind is fitted with a lath 12, 13 enabling it to be pulled out, and preventing from reeling totally inside the container. At the centres of these laths are loops of wire 14, 15 which are used to attach the blinds to the vehicle when the blinds are pulled out.

A bracket 19 is fitted to the container 1 by means of a metal clamp 20 which slides in a slot 21 in the aluminium extrusion and is tightened by screws 22, 23. At the end of the bracket 19 is fitted another clamp 24 tightened by a screw 25, and shaped to enable it to be fitted to the gutter of the roof of a vehicle. A second bracket is fitted further down the slot 21, but reversed so as to attach to the gutter on the other side of the vehicle.

In *Fig. 2* a blind installation is shown fitted to a car 30 in which a container 31 is attached to the car roof by means of brackets 32, 33. Two blinds 34, 35 are pulled out of the container 31 and attached to the car at 36, 37 using small hooks attached to the car. Preferably the blind installation includes catches which will ensure that the blinds are fully stowed while the vehicle is in motion. These may be fitted at either end of the laths or at the centres, and hold the laths to the containers.

In another example of a blind installation separate additional blinds are mounted on the vehicle so as to pull out and cover the side windows. Alternatively additional material can be added to the blinds to cover the side windows, this material being folded on top of the blinds before reeling into their containers.

In further examples the side windows may be covered by means of additional blinds attached to the sides of the vehicle, hinged or sliding out from the blind installation on the roof of the vehicle.

Other examples include those in which the blinds are wound in and out mechanically or electrically, so that the driver can operate the blinds from within the vehicle.

As decoration, various shaped fins can be added to the end-pieces, additionally the blinds themselves may be decorated or contain written matter such as advertisements.

In another example a roofrack having one or more members fitted across the vehicle may be used to hold a blind off the roof enabling a simpler installation to be fitted.

Only one blind may then be needed, fitted at one end of the vehicle and pulled out over it.

Preferably all installations should be constructed so as to fit a number of cars or vehicles of different sizes. *Fig. 1* shows an example of a method of allowing the attachment to the vehicle to be adjustable.

CLAIMS

1. A blind installation comprises one or more blinds fitted to a vehicle in such a

manner as to shade the outside of the vehicle.

2. A blind installation according to claim 1 in which one or more blinds are enclosed in containers when not in use.

5 3. A blind installation according to claim 2 in which one or more blinds are fitted in containers which are part of the vehicles bodywork.

10 4. A blind installation according to claims 2 or 3 in which one or more containers are formed of such shape as to act also as spoilers or air deflectors.

15 5. A blind installation according to claims 1 to 4 in which a roof rack is part of the installation.

6. A blind installation according to claims 1 to 4 in which the installation is constructed so as to attach to a roof rack.

20 7. A blind installation according to claims 1 to 6 in which the installation is so designed that it may be adjusted to attach to a number of different vehicles of different dimensions.

25 8. A blind installation according to claims 1 to 7 in which one or more blinds are electrically operated.

9. A blind installation according to claims 1 to 8 in which one or more blinds are roller blinds.

30 10. A blind installation constructed substantially as described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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